

MATWATCH

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THE CLASH: A COMEBACK STORY

Pardon a few TBS and NWA executives if they aren't singing a few choruses of that memorable melody played all too often during Twix commercials last Tuesday night, "Oooohhhh.. yehhhhhhhh!"

CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS VIII posted a 4.7 rating and 7.6 share, the third highest-rated CLASH special ever, and grew in every half-hour of the 2½-hour broadcast. Even partially opposite the season premiere of ROSEANNE and the highly-touted new ABC drama LIFE GOES ON, CLASH drew 2.4 million homes, which adds up to 5.5 million viewers. The rating was down 13% from FALL BRAWL '88 but last year's show was in Labor Day week and faced virtually no first-run network competition.

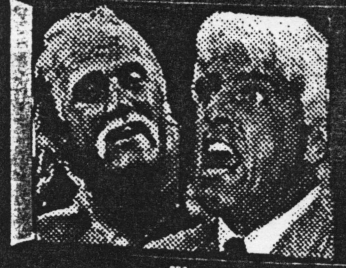
"I'm pleased," a happy TBS program exec Jeff Carr said. "I was hoping for a 7 share and we topped it." The news also was good inside the NWA camp. Some elements of the TBS hierarchy were counting heavily on a 4.5 rating after the severe dip to a 3.9 for GUTS & GLORY in June.

With the exception of the 9:15-9:30 quarter hour, opposite ROSEANNE, CLASH increased in audience in every 15-minute block. Beginning with a 3.9/7.0 at 8:00, the audience jumped to 4.9/7.7 at 9 for Freebirds-Steiners. By 9:45, for the Lex Luger-Tommy Rich affair, the numbers were 5.3/8.1. The Ric Flair/Sting vs. Great Muta/Dick Slater main event posted a 5.8 rating and 9.1 share and was viewed in three million homes, the second most-watched topline of any CLASH.

Creatively, with the exception of a lackluster Tom Zenk-Dave Sierra match, the ringwork was strong and the structure was inspired to begin each hour with a hot, meaningful tag match. The biggest surprises of the night were the work in the Brian Pillman-Norman match, during with Mike Shaw looked more like Makham Singh than ever previously in the NWA; and the Rich-Luger affair, probably the best those two were capable of against each other, with thirteen 2-counts milking the crowd emotion.

Only about 2,500 showed up but Keith Mitchell's lighting, probably the best-ever for a CLASH, and creative camera angle work was deceptive enough to give Carolina Coliseum a full-house look. If there was a weakness to the production, it was in a few missed shots: we did not see Paul E. Dangerously get decked by Paul Ellering, we missed the full impact of the double dives of Muta and Sting onto the floor during the main event, and we didn't see where Terry Funk made his entrance from (a lot of fans felt he was hiding under the ring). But the innovation of the crane camera at ringside presented some beautiful views (a Luger dive onto Rich, i.e.)

As for the announcing, Jim Ross and Jim Cornette did a solid job but Corny needs to work on shortening his comments



during analysis on a live special. He proved he didn't have to be funny for 2½ hours straight to be an effective color man. But he's so used to those great interview segs that he was occasionally long-winded. But that will come with experience.

A rundown of BEST LINES and the MATWATCH 25 SCALE for the special is on Page 4 (TV TEMPO).

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

STARRCADE '89 SET
FOR OMNI DEC. 13

ATLANTA --- The question is finally answered: STARRCADE '89: LORDS OF THE '90s has been penciled in for Atlanta's Omni Dec. 13 (8-11 p.m., EST).

The national pay-cable show will be the first NWA PPV event from the promotion's home base of Atlanta and first STARRCADE since the 1986 show.

No card has been announced but speculation for a main event centers on Ric Flair vs. Muta.

TEAMS SET FOR THANKSGIVING
WWF SURVIVOR SERIES

STAMFORD, CT. --- Hulk Hogan and Zeus, as expected, will captain four-man teams for the main event of the WWF SURVIVOR SERIES Thanksgiving night.

The Nov. 23 show tentatively pairs Hogan with Jake Roberts and Demolition vs. Zeus, Ted Di Biase and Powers of Pain.

(Continued on Page 2)



Steve
Beverly

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES (Continued from Page 1)

A second match of four-man teams will be captained by the Ultimate Warrior, going opposite a team of the Bobby Heenan Family. A Randy Savage team will square off against a Jim Duggan-led unit. And a final matchup pits a Rick Rude-captained team vs. a Roddy Piper-directed quartet. Because of a slimmer WWF talent roster, this year's teams have been cut from the previous five-man pairings and no tag team SURVIVORS battle is scheduled.

**TERRY FUNK HOSPITALIZED;
WILL BE OUT THROUGH OCT. 27**

ATLANTA --- That Terry Funk injury was no work on CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS. Funk underwent surgery two weeks ago to correct an elbow problem and while expressing a desire to return to action in two weeks, the NWA star is not expected back until the HALLOWEEN HAVOC payable show in late October.

During a mid-South tour, Funk went to a hospital and was rushed into surgery two hours later after doctors discovered a substance in his elbow described as "a sack of poison." The problem had been created by infection from an injury Funk had allowed to go untreated.

TV viewers will learn of Funk's disposition in a weekend announcement. His return will be in a cage tag match at the Philadelphia pay show, teaming with Muta against Ric Flair and Sting.

PINFALL PROFILE

I'm flattered at the increasing mail I receive from college-age MATWATCHers, many who are broadcast majors.

A recurring question lately is: "How do I break into the (wrestling) business as a broadcaster? What courses should I take to prepare for a career?"

For months in, we've dealt with the lack of fresh, young personalities readying to become the Lance Russells, Gordon Solies or Bob Caudles of the future. One oft-acknowledged problem is the declining number of smaller promotions where young announcers can sort out their mistakes before a crack at a big-time situation.

Unfortunately, colleges don't offer courses in WRESTLING PLAY-BY-PLAY 101. But for the next two weeks, I'll offer some pointers for you young guys who want to be sitting in Jim Ross's chair one day. Understand: even fol-

lowing these steps to the letter far from guarantees you a foot in the door. But you'll be assured of no foot inside if you don't work at it:

1) Watch and study all the best announcers you can: Ross, Russell, Schiavone, McMahon. Listen how they vary inflections of their voices to build intensity and work changes of pace within matches. Note how they call near-falls and false finishes: Ross, Solie and Russell are among the recognized-best at this by making you believe a match is about to end and on the knockout, a viewer is left breathless. Also, study their ability to "sell" angles and matchups. If you can't "sell," you won't make it. McMahon and Ross are tops at it and that's why they're the lead announcers for the "big two" promotions.

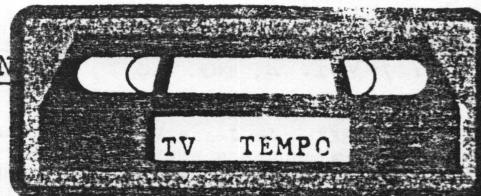
2) Practice. How? One way is technically illegal but I've managed it before. Take a small audio recorder to an arena show and practice your own play-by-play. Don't worry if the guy in the next seat thinks you're an idiot. You're building for a career. I did it at football and basketball games even when I wasn't on the air in high school and college. You can't get better unless you practice. Take the tape and be tough on yourself about mistakes. When you've done it enough (at least two dozen times) and feel you're ready for a professional critique, I'll be happy to listen and if there's potential there, I'll share it with key people in the industry.

3) Develop a distinctive personality and style. Something which sets you apart from everyone else. The best announcers, of course, are ones who can "be themselves" and project a pleasing personality to the viewer. That's why Bob Caudle has been around 30 years. But style is essential for an announcer to make a distinctive mark. With Solie, it's that newscaster believability and thesaurus vocabulary; with McMahon, it's a carnival-barker approach that appeals to kids and teens; with Ross, it's detail, preparation, a "fan's eye" view and those classic torch song-belting of showclosing brawls; with Russell and Charlie Platt, it's a downhome, good buddy approach which has worn well with their core followings. You may have the most golden throat in America but if you have no marketable personality or style, you will not make it.

4) In college, take any course which makes you get in front of a camera and ad-lib, be it news or entertainment-oriented. Most sportscasting is done with no script. If you can't learn to think fast on your feet, you'll bomb. Do any TV and radio work which makes you work without prepared copy. It's the best way to learn.

(TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK)

PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY FIRED FROM N.W.A.



ATLANTA - Paul E. Dangerously was fired from the National Wrestling Alliance Thursday night after a reported shouting match with booker Ric Flair in the halls of The Center Stage. The confrontation allegedly stemmed from Dangerously's discontent over the finish of his Samoan Swat Team's match on CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS VIII, in which he was decked by Paul Ellering and his gimmick telephone destroyed by the Road Warriors' manager. Dangerously, scheduled to switch to full-time TV commentary, was reported upset over uncertainty about his future position and a dispute developed over the DANGER ZONE segment he taped for WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING last weekend. Dangerously, who had five months remaining on his NWA contract, is not commenting and NWA executive vice president Jim Herd was out of his Atlanta office Friday and could not be reached by MATWATCH. Sources say a reconciliation is possible but unlikely. MATWATCH will update the story in next week's issue.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor.

(PORTLAND/2 Wks. Ago) - PACIFIC NW TITLE TOURNEY (Round 1): Beetlejuice d. Steve Doll by coin toss; Al Madril d. Jeff Warner; Grappler d. Moondog Moretti; Carl Stiles d. C.W. Bergstrom; Rex King wins DQ over Midnight Soldier. (Round 2): Beetlejuice double DQ vs. Madril (both eliminated); Stiles wins DQ over Grappler; Scotty the Body wins DQ over King; TITLE MATCH: Scotty d. Stiles when Jonathan Boyd distracts ref & Grappler hits Stiles w. knucks. OTHER MATCHES: Bill Francis d. Nord the Barbarian in SUDDEN IMPACT MATCH (Beetlejuice, Scotty & Don Coss are judges & Coss casts deciding vote); Scotty vs. Doll ends in progress. ANGLES: Midnight Soldier turns heel & Beetlejuice later pulls off Midnight's mask to reveal Brian Adams; After SUDDEN IMPACT verdict, Adams puts full nelson on Coss & heels kick Coss before faces save & brawl starts. PILEDRIIVER.

(PORTLAND/Last Week) - Madril wins DQ over Francis; Stiles d. Bergstrom; Beetlejuice DQ over Adams; PACIFIC NW TAG TITLE: S. Rockers vs. Scotty/Grappler ends in double pin so belts held up. ANGLES: Stiles spits tobacco juice on Scotty; Adams puts full nelson on BJ and holds several minutes before Stiles burns Adams to pry his hands free. DRAW.

(CWA) - Rock & Roll Express d. Wildside but Ronald V. Gossett IV (dressed as "The Joker") sprays green substance on Ricky & Robert; Lisa Monroe d. Sandy Sofine; Texas Dirt/Stomper Harris d. Black Bart/Tony Anthony; Blackbirds d. Ken Raper/Freezer Thompson but 'Birds attack Jamie Dundee after; Bill Dundee/Dustin Rhodes/Mann d. Spike Huber/Steele/Big O; VIDEO: Freddy. DRAW....Gossett was a scream.

(SCW) - Mike Golden/Mr. Atlanta d. Lee Scott/Mark Collins; Joel Deaton d. Tony King; Billy Starr d. Burgerman; Georgia Power d. Invader/Steve Bennett; David Sammartino d. Chance Myers. DOUBLE BOMB.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Skyscrapers d. Rusty Riddle/Ricky Nelson; Brian Pillman d. Billy Ford; Tommy Rich d. Joe Cruz; Midnight Express d. New Zealand Militia; Road Warriors d. Agent Steel/Trent Knight. INTERVIEW: Jim Ross questions Robin Green if she tripped up Scott Steiner at CLASH VIII. She denies & Rick defends her. RESTHOLD-PLUS. [NWA PRO]: Norman d. Tom Branch; Freebirds d. Lee Scott/Steel; Steiners d. Riddle/Bounty Hunter; Pillman/Rich d. Cuban Assassin/Ron Simmons; Midnight Express d. State Patrol. RESTHOLD.

(USWA) - Billy Travis d. Dog of War; Taurus Bulba d. Kerry Von Erich w. claw; Chris Adams vs. P.Y. Chu'i no contest when Chris hits ref & beats P.Y. & Tojo w. kendo stick before Gary Young runs in for 3-on-1 attack. Eric Embry & Matt Borne make save; VIDEO: Rock & Roll Express, M.O.P., Gossett, Dundee, Wildside all as COMING ATTRACTIONS. DRAW.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: Brutus Beefcake d. Dale Wolfe; Ronnie Garvin d. Barry Horowitz; Big Bossman d. Brian Boswell; Tito Santana d. Chris Duffy; Koko B. Ware d. Sandy Beach; OTHER WINNERS: Rougeaus, Powers of Pain. CLIPS: Summer Slam. BOMB-PLUS. [SUPERSTARS]: Rockers d. Horowitz/ Mike Williams; UPDATE: Piper-Rude-Bro. LUV angle; Jim Duggan d. Tony Ulysses; Greg Valentine d. Bobby Munice; Ultimate Warrior d. Bob Bradley; Honky Tonk Man d. Mario Mancini; Tully & Arn d. unnamed team but Demolition runs in & T&A scatter; Curt Hennig d. Jim McPherson. RESTHOLD.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Beefcake d. Wolfe; Duggan d. Ulysses; Honky Tonk Man d. Mancini; Hennig d. McPherson; Powers of Pain win squash; SUMMER SLAM CLIP: DiBiase-Snuka; BRO. LUV: Piper-Rude angle; Rockers vs. Hart Foundation ends in no contest when Rougeaus attack Rockers but Harts make save and Harts & Rockers both chase Rougeaus back to dressing room. ANGLE: Roddy Piper destroys BOBBY HEENAN SHOW set. DRAW...for Piper/Heenan.

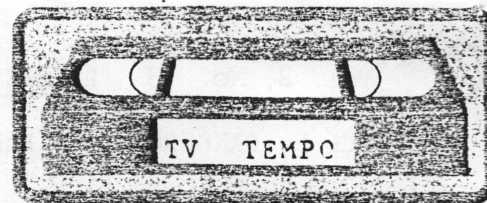
(AWF) - Alabama Don d. Ricky Harrison; Loverboy Paul Lee d. Mike Adonis; Mr. Frankie d. Terry Sales; Greg Sawyer wins DQ over Tim Sledge. DOUBLE BOMB.

(NWA/TBS) - [MAIN EVENT]: CLASH HIGHLIGHTS; State Patrol d. Scott/Steel; Dynamic Dudes d. Cuban A/Randy Rose; Dick Slater d. Bobby Eaton using cast. Paul E. Dangerously announces retirement as manager. PEDICINO'S NOSE: Update on Dudes and call for Terry Funk's permanent suspension. RESTHOLD-PLUS. [WCW]: Ron Simmons d. Rick Ryder; Scott Steiner d. Gene Ligon; CLASH HIGHLIGHTS: Funk-Flair "plastic bag" angle; Jim Herd suspends Funk indefinitely & fines him \$100,000; REPLAY: Militia injuring Dudes; Dudes d. Cruz/Steel; M Ex d. Ford/Robbie Idol; Tom Zenk d. Mike Awesome; DANGER ZONE: Paul E. vows to be back stronger than ever; REPLAY: SST walking out on Paul; Tommy Rich draw vs. Dick Murdoch; CLASH: Luger-Rich; Pillman d. Bob Cook; Skyscrapers d. Tim Parker/Luis Asta; Rick Steiner d. Tommy Angel. RESTHOLD.

(CWF) - Adrian Street/Todd Morton d. Mike Davis/Lou Fabiano; Brian Lee/Jimmy Golden d. Dean Ho/The Avenger; Beauty & the Beast d. Bo Elliott/Kevin Fields but Street/Morton/Miss Linda make save and 6-way brawl starts; KNOX-VILLE: Ron Fuller brings out Butch Cassidy, who goes at Downtown Bruno; Jerry Stubbs wins DQ over Dennis Condrey when Condrey DDTs him on CWA title belt but Wendell Cooley saves. VIDEO: Bill Dundee. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(FCW) - Tyree Pride d. Coconut Kid; Ho Chi Wen d. Dennis Knight; Nasty Boys d. Tim Parker/Mike Williams; Lou Perez wins DQ over Jumbo Baretta; Kendall Windham d. Mike Awesome; FLA. TITLE: Steve Keirn vs. Terminator in progress as show ends when Sonny King attempts run in and Diamond Dallas Page pulls King off ring apron. ANGLES: Keirn asks Page to manage him; Blackjack Mulligan brings out hefty woman to kiss Page. RESTHOLD.

(AWA) - Sgt. Slaughter d. Chris Curtis; Col. DeBeers d. Jerry Lynn; Kokina Maximus d. Tom Fuller; Tommy Jammer d. Tom Stone; LADIES TITLE: Wendi Richter d. Judy Martin but Judy posts Wendi after & steals belt. BOMB.



LINE OF THE WEEK - 1. Jesse Ventura & Vince McMahon, WWF: (JV) "The Brainbusters are the greatest scientific team ever in the WWF." (VMC) "I can remember Tony Garea & Haystacks Calhoun years ago. Oh, well...that was a different era." 2. Roddy Piper, PTW: "I'm cold, I'm bold and I don't do what I'm told. And when I get quiet, I'm dangerous." 3. Paul E. Dangerously, NME: "I'm 24 & retired. I decided that the other day while I was walking on water." 4. Joe Pedicino, NME, on Funk using plastic bag: "Kids, that's not something you should imitate. This is the National Wrestling Alliance, not the National Mugging Alliance." 5. Don Coss, Portland, on Jonathan Boyd: "Let him manage by proxy." 6. Coss, Portland: "I know a promoter who has a better full nelson than you (Brian Adams)." 7. Rick Rude, WWF: "Roddy Piper, you made a mistake. You didn't SCOPE out the situation." 8. Jerry Lawler, USWA: "I remember when Eric Embry used to spend \$3 for a ticket to watch me." 9. Jake Roberts, WWF, to Bro. LUV: "You're just like a jukebox. Somebody sticks money in you & you sing all night long." 10. Paul E., NME: "I'm a TV announcer now...and VERY happy to be so."

11. Paul E., to Lance Russell: "What's that in your ear? It's like working with MY FAVORITE MARTIAN." 12. Pedicino, NME: "I hope that a woman does not come between those 2 brothers (Steiners)." 13. Skandor Akbar, USWA: "When you get lackadaisical & lazy, like Cactus Jack, you have to go." 14. Jesse & Vince, WWF: (J) "Heartbreak Hotel? Oh, that's right. You only stay at Motel 6." (V) "It's clean." (J) "Bet you bring a lot of quarters to keep the TV going." 15. Ventura, WWF: "Garvin should go on to other things, like flipping burgers at Burger King." 16. Ventura, WWF: "I speak REAL English. I don't speak the way they do at Harvard, McMahon." 17. Jim Cornette, WWW: "When we walk down Badstreet, the property values will go down." 18. Jim Ross, WWW: "The New Zealand Militia: poster boys for 1989 for Ugly, Incorporated." 19. Charlie Platt, CWF, on Bruno-Butch Cassidy match: "What's the marquee gonna say? Weasel Takes on a Midget?" 20. Cornette, WCW: "Z-Man oughtta talk to Robert Young about some of that decaf stuff."

21. Paul E., WCW: "I live in a world where the son of a streetwalker hosts WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING." 22. Ross, WCW, on Murdoch: "I think he's on the Wall of Fame in Amarillo for putting away a 72-ounce steak." 23. Teddy Long, WCW, to Road Warriors: "Easy, greasy, 'cause you've gotta long way to slide." 24. Terry Funk, WCW: "Yes I would do it (bag Flair) again. Don't you kids ever do anything like that." 25. Piper, PTW: "Snakes just love weasers." 26. Blackjack Mulligan, FCW, to Dallas Page: "Boy, you wouldn't know a woman when you see one," before bringing out his version of Big Bertha.

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Coss, Portland: "Scotty the Body was given that title by his mother and she is a mother." 2. Jerry Lawler, USWA: "Eric Embry, you're not championship material!"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. Mr. Inside Edition (Gary Hart's name for Gordon Solie). 2. Blubber Love (Roddy Piper on Bro. LUV). 3. The Bounty Collector (Paul E. on Dick Slater). 4. Samoan Squat Team (by Hawk on SST).

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Bobby Heenan, PTW, to Gorrilla Monsoon: "Whadda ya think, you're dealing with an idiot?" 2. Paul E., NME, to Lance Russell: "Are you on Social Security yet?" 3. Vince McMahon, WWF: "How many pounds of that pomade does he (Honky) put in his hair?" 4. Robin Green, WCW: "Why would a girl like me do something like that (trip Scott)?"

BEST PICTURES - 1. WWF, Warrior ripping Bob Bradley's face. 2. Closeup of Warrior blowing up. 3. NME, Bobby Eaton slamming Slater's arm into rail. 4. WCCW, Bulba's claw on Kerry.

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Paul E., NME: "...adding insult to injury." 2. Tracy Smothers, CWF: "...action speaks louder than words." 3. Jim Neidhart, WWF: "What goes around comes around."

BOO AWARD - CWF, for third replay of Linda Street being attacked by 2 men. We get the point, guys, and it's about time for my soapbox on wrestling's portrayal of women. It's coming, folks.

TUBE TALK: Quite a lackluster week of weekly shows... AWA plugs Zbyszko-Slaughter rematch Oct. 8....San Jose CA lost its TBS signal at 3:10 Saturday but it was an isolated problem....Is it me or has WCW lost some of its zip from the spring and early summer?...Baron Von Raschke replaces Roddy Piper as captain of one of the 3 AWA team squads....the Eddie Gilbert-Brian Pillman rematch Sat. on WCW will advance Eddie closer to his old ways....Yes, it was deliberate that you didn't see the angle revealing who tripped Scott Steiner but it wasn't executed the way it was supposed to be.

Piper's putting on a real tour de force on Monday PTW. Watch it or tape it, if only for that....Haven't a clue who will replace Paul E. on NME but if the differences aren't resolved, bet on Teddy Long....The AWF show listed is a revival of a 3-week wonder from earlier in the year in Chattanooga....The live band was gone on FCW & Dallas Page is about to turn face....Nick Bockwinkel is one of the most articulate guys around but his stints as AWA color guy have been boring, in my view....Remember to send your entries for NAME THE NOVEMBER CLASH to Jeff Carr, WTBS, Box 105366, One CNN Center, Atlanta GA 30348-5366. Have a great week, FSB.

CLASH LINES

BEST LINES - 1. Jim Cornette: "Jim Bakker moved in next door to Norman at the Sanitorium. He's teaching Norman how to collect tax-free donations. Norman's teaching Jim a few rasslin' holds." 2. Cornette: "Any event that makes Bill Apter put a tie on is a big event." 3. Teddy Long: "The Skyscrapers are gonna make the Road Warriors look like Sylvester & Tweety." 4. Jim Ross & Cornette: (JR) "Columbia is also the home of Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President." (JC) "I didn't know that, Jim, and if I did, I don't know that I'd tell it." 5. Cornette: "There are a few ghoulish faces around Gary Hart that would look great on a pay-per-view." 6. Ross: "Might be good to turn down the sound & see how Lance and Joe are describing it." 7. Cornette: "Rick Steiner's an officer in the Bay City, Michigan, 3 STOOGES FAN CLUB."

STRONGEST COMMENT - Ross: "I predict Scott Steiner will be the World Heavyweight Champion one day!"

NICKNAME - Cornette (for Gary Cappetta): "The World's Most Dangerous Announcer: Paul Schafer's Illegitimate Brother."

BEST FEATURE - "The World According to Teddy Long."

BEST PICTURE - 1. Crane cam shot of Luger missing dive on Rich. 2. Vicious spitting at camera. 3. Ellering stomping Dangerously's phone. 4. Pillman flying onto Norman.

MISSED SHOTS - 1. Ellering decking Paul E. 2. Funk's run-in approach. 3. Muta's & Sting's approaches on double dive over ropes. 4. Vicious' opening toss of Ranger over ropes.

BEST AUDIO - Long telling ref: "Get your hands off of my head," and later screaming at Norman over loss.

FORGOTTEN HISTORY - Cornette: "Only the Anderson Brothers & the Brisco Brothers are brother combinations to ever hold the world tag team championship." What about the Scotts, the Torres Brothers, and the Vachons, NWA champs all in the 1960s?

BLOOPER AWARD - Gordon Solie: "Let's go up now to GARY CAPOOTA." At least he didn't say he was "Kaput-a."

MATWATCH 25 SCALE: Overall Production, 3.2 (graded down for abundant missed shots); Quality of Matches, 2.9; Crowd Enthusiasm, 4.7 (best since CLASH I); Announcing, 3.9; Overall Excellence of Show, 3.8. **TOTAL RATING: 18.5.**

COMINGS & GOINGS

RESPONSIBILITY: On the next page, we editorialize about the "plastic bag" angle on CLASH VIII. But the NWA has realized some of its lethal consequences. Terry Funk, on next week's FUNK'S GRILL, pleads with children never to try what he did to Funk. That's at least measuring up to responsibility.

SUBSTITUTIONS: While Funk recuperates, the NWA program in the arenas will be Flair-Slater. Sting's knee is expected to be scoped, forcing him out 8-10 days. A likely sub is either Gilbert-Muta or Pillman-Muta.

CLASH IX: The Nov. 15 clash is set for Troy, N.Y. The NWA will cross-promote on both its new Albany affiliate, WXXA, and on WPIX, which has 95% cable coverage in the Albany-Schenectady-Troy market.

AN ARREST???: Reports are rampant that 3 WWF stars were involved in an incident in the last two weeks and were arrested. But details are so sketchy and confirmation is so limited that we are not going to name names or specifics at this time.

NETWORKING: WWF moves to WLTZ in Columbus GA Saturdays at noon....NWA has a new TV outlet in Phoenix and will run a show there this fall....CLASH rating didn't help the Braves. The Braves-Giants game dropped to a 1.9 rating.

VACATIONNING SAMOANS: The Samoan Swat Team goes home for a respite after Monday's show. When they return in a month, they'll likely have Sam Fatu (Tonga Kid) with them.

RETURNING CWF: Continental may show back up on Atlanta's WVEU SUPERSTARS. ACW will likely be dropped from its 2 a.m. slot for not producing a new show in 2 months.

NO VADER: If Big Van Vader wrestles in the U.S., it will not be with the NWA. His potential Hasbro Toys contract was one conflict.

HALLOWEEN HAVOC: Here's part of the card for the Oct. 28 PPV in Philly: CAGE, Flair-Sting vs. Funk-Muta; Road Warriors-Skyscrapers; Steiners vs. a team to be named; U.S. TITLE, Luger vs. Williams; Zenk vs. Rotunda.

CORRECTION: First Warriors-Scrapers match scheduled Saturday night in Richmond.

WEEK OFF: Portland did not run a TV show Saturday, thanks to college football. The angle with Don Coss being attacked was a trend

I hope doesn't spread. But when a gang attack spread to Rip Oliver's brother, Jerry, an amputee, that's enough. Attacking cripples is not our idea of fun and games on wrestling TV.

PREDICTION: Robin Green will be the hottest new act in wrestling this fall. I don't know any specifics of the angle's outcome but I'm betting attention on her will only increase over the next few months.

GOODBYE, HELLO: Broadway Danny Wolf is saying goodbye to FNN/SCORE and hello to the World Roller Federation. You heard it right. A pilot is being taped next weekend in Irvine CA for a challenge to the new ROLLERGAMES. Wolf will be the trackside announcer. Patrick Schafer, late of Global and PWTW, is behind the WRF, which we're told will feature more traditional roller derby.

FCW FOLLIES: Steve Keirn vs. Kendall Windham and Nasty Boys (recently reinstated) vs. Playboys (Brett Sawyer & Jim Backlund) continue to topline FLORIDA cards. No reason given for the end of Johnny Martin's five-week stint as FCW host.

RERUN CITY: In an interesting twist, reruns of the 26-week USA WRESTLING (Ron Fuller's old outfit) series are airing in Birmingham late Saturdays. Fuller will make some guest appearances on Continental shows this fall.

AWA/ESPN: Later in the fall, when ESPN begins showing western and Rocky Mountain teams in late-night college football games, AWA will either shift to Friday or have several pre-emptions.

MUSTERING A SEAT: Ric Flair expected at this past Sunday's Chicago Bears game. Flair and Terry Funk picked up a big plug from Dick Enberg & Bill Walsh on the Sept. 10 Bears-Bengals game on NBC, Flair as Brad Muster's fave and Funk as the current top villain. The NWA got a rare good national mention.

STIRRING THE POT: Lots of anger still simmering over Verne Gagne's comment that Bruiser Brody "probably deserved what he got" in PRO WRESTLING TORCH. It was a fine piece of journalism for Wade Keller to get that interview and equally tasteless for Gagne to make such a remark, no matter how he felt about Brody.

SATURDAY NIGHT STANDOFF: Don't be surprised if the first SNME on NBC this fall is Oct. 28, same night as a certain promotion (which is no competition) has its PPV from 7-10 p.m.

ZZZZZZZZ: Tom Zenk no-showed skedded NWA syndie taping Sept. 11. Didn't set too well in the company, either.

MATWATCH EDITORIAL

As stated in our column on CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS VIII on Page 1, the NWA is to be complemented on a predominantly well-handled special where matches not appearing to offer great interest on paper turned surprisingly good and for a mostly interesting two and a half hours.

However, MATWATCH feels, after careful re-play and consideration, the promotion should be taken to task for its "plastic bag" angle in the nightcap tag affair.

Booker Ric Flair should be commended for trying innovation and even occasional angles of shock value to attract viewer interest. However, Terry Funk's use of a plastic bag over the head of Flair creates a dilemma this organization must face.

The biggest deficit in television viewers between the NWA and WWF is Titan's advantage of three million children between the ages of two and eleven. The NWA is experimenting with ways of reaching more youngsters, albeit a flop such as The Dingdongs.

But medical and safety experts have for years warned that one of the easiest methods of child suffocation is through playing with plastic bags. One can argue that it's all a work to eternity but that is no sufficient defense for the kind of message the angle may send to children prone to violent acts.

Even at 10:20 at night in the East, the incident was shown at 7:20 in California, prime viewing time for kids. The Sunday re-play was in full daylight when more children are watching.

When an organization is attempting valiantly to hook more of a younger audience, it has the responsibility to consider the messages its video text offers school-age youngsters who may playfully attempt to recreate the act on a playground or in a back yard.

Adults can watch such an angle responsibly. But MATWATCH believes many children watch specials such as CLASH unsupervised. In 1966, Mario Galento brought out a double-barrel shot-

gun on an Atlanta wrestling show in an effort to gain revenge on the Medics. That's about as lethal a weapon as can be publicly displayed. But a plastic bag can be equally deadly.

MATWATCH calls on the NWA and all wrestling organizations to carefully examine the consequences of choreographed ring acts before dramatizing the use of potentially fatal items children have been documented, even innocently, to use as deadly playthings.

RATINGS RAP: CABLE

Week Ending Sept. 12	Rating	Share	Homes
CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS (TBS 9/12)	4.7	7.6	2.4 mil.
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 9/11)	2.9	4.6	1.4 mil.
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 9/10)	2.7	7.2	1.3 mil.
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 9/9)	2.3	5.0	1.14 mil.
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 9/8)	2.2	4.2	1.09 mil.
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 9/10)	2.2	4.2	1.09 mil.
NWA POWER HOUR (Repeat) (TBS 9/9)	0.9	9.0	445,000

(ANALYSIS: CLASH details on Page 1. PRIME TIME dipped below 3.0 for the first time since Roddy Piper's return but it was bucking the first NFL Monday night game. WCW rebounded from that disaster of Sept. 2 for a 5 share. Big NWA news was a record Friday rating for POWER HOUR, its first over a million homes. The 8-man tag didn't hurt. Explain this: MAIN EVENT had a superior show to its record share edition of Sept. 3, yet the rating dipped 24%. Maybe the NFL, too???)

RATINGS RAP: SYNDICATION

Week Ending Aug. 27	Rating	Stations	U.S. Coverage
WWF	9.9	247	97%
NWA	6.1	158	91%

(ANALYSIS: The nearly 10 rating reflects the SUMMER SLAM buildup for WWF. This marks the second 6-plus rating for NWA in syndication in six weeks, reflecting some upgrades.)

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